

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 13, 1974

10:00 a.m.

H. CLAY LUTTRELL, CHAIRMAN

District VII Office

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . A Special Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Tuesday, August 13, 1974, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the District VII Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mr. H. C. Luttrell, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

H. CLAY LUTTRELL, CHAIRMAN

DOYLE G. BERRY, MEMBER

JERRY G. JONES, MEMBER

JEAN H. LAPEYRE, MEMBER

JIMMIE THOMPSON, MEMBER

DON WILLE, MEMBER

J. BURTON ANGELLE, DIRECTOR

A G E N D A

MR. HARRY SCHAFER

1. Approval of contract for computer work at NASA. (3)

MR. KENNETH SMITH

2. Consider recommendations on Lake Bistineau drawdown. (7)

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

3. Setting of 1974-75 duck and goose seasons and bag limits. (22)

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry we are a little late this morning but some of our Board Members had not arrived in time to start at 10:00 o'clock.

We have two things I guess we should take up first and then maybe we can get on with the duck season.

I would like to first recognize Mr. Harmon Drew, one of our Legislators, in the back who has something to say and Mr. Albert Frank who has a petition. I will call on you people in good time.

Now, we have-- Harry, are you here? We will call on Mr. Harry Schafer for number one.

✓ MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, the Oyster Division has been collecting data since 1962 across the coast for shrimp, fish, hydrology data and we have worked this and put it on punch cards and on tape. We are now in need of a program to be developed and checked out and the document on computer programs utilizing the new 1108 computer system.

We have checked around the State and L.S.U. Office of Information Services, and it seems the only place we can get this right now is at NASA, the Mississippi Test Facility. We worked with the Office of Information Services of the Division of Administration and we have a letter from Mr. Robertson who

is the director of that service and he authorizes us to enter into an agreement with NASA for this work.

I would like to recommend that the Commission authorize the Director to sign this work agreement. It is for one year and for \$9,700.00.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard Harry's remarks. Do you have any questions?

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Is this basically to evaluate the data that has been collected over a period of years or is this--

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: They will develop programs so that we can utilize the data any way we have to utilize it and be able to pull data out for these environmental statements for management practices. They will put it in a position where we can utilize data back from 1962 that has been collected.

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Right. I understood there was a large volume of data that cannot be usefully--

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: I think you ran into it when you visited our Houma installation over there and found out the amount of data we have. It's not in a form that can be used readily.

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry, do you feel like with the use of this computer data that we can set a better season with more accuracy and help our shrimp people more?

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, we would certainly hope so. Not only for setting seasons, but in order to manage the whole coast for all fisheries and not just shrimp. This is for everything; all data that has been collected. The Office of Information Services has assigned a man to work with Judd Pollard who is in charge of this computer for the Oyster Division and they will work closely with MTF in developing this so that these programs can be used on different computers. They will probably take it over or maybe we can do it on our own computers if we ever get them upgraded.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion, gentlemen?  
Do I have a motion?

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I so move.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

The ayes have it. The motion is carried.

(The full text of the resolution

is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Division of Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has made excellent progress in instituting an integrated coastwide program of automatic data processing for the ever increasing amount of scientific data collected by the Division, and

WHEREAS, an urgent need exists to upgrade the capabilities of this coastwide program through the use of far more powerful and sophisticated electronic computers than are currently employed within the Commission, and

WHEREAS, access to these more powerful and sophisticated computers is readily gained at reasonable service rates from other state and federal agencies, and

WHEREAS, the primary obstacle in implementing programs upon these computers is gaining the services of competent professional analysts and programmers fully familiar with said computers, and

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's National Space Technology Laboratory located in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, hosted a series of workshops aimed at expediting the use by the states of federal technical resources during which a proposal data management assistance was jointly initiated, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Information Services, State Division of Administration, has approved by letter dated August 5, 1974, such a venture upon review of the proposal, and

WHEREAS, such services have been stated to cost \$9,707.00 when performed by the Computer Programming Unit of the NASA/NSTL Data Services Laboratory.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve entering into such an agreement and authorizes the Director to sign the work agreement with NASA.

THE CHAIRMAN: Kenneth Smith, come up please.

On this Lake Bistineau drawdown, I don't think we have a great deal to discuss. We have with us this morning a man who wants to talk on it, Mr. Harmon Drew. Mr. Drew, do you want to talk before Mr. Smith or after Mr. Smith? All right.

Kenneth Smith, please.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, we did attempt to gather some data on the lake to give us some indication of the trends and the fish populations and also the degree of aquatic infestation. You know the fishing hasn't been a real problem up there recently,

it's been the aquatic weeds that have become so dense up there it presents problems. I would like to briefly run over the fisheries' data to acquaint you with that aspect of the lake.

Now, I will have to talk away from the mike but I want to call your attention to this chart which shows the total pounds of all the fish per acre in Lake Bistineau in 1966 which was taken prior to the first drawdown through 1974. In order to get the latest possible information we completed our vegetative surveys and fish populations surveys last week on this thing.

We noticed that in the first three years of drawdowns-- Now, this is total fish populations all the way across. The first three years, the population total remained about the same but if you will notice the pounds of catchable size game fish increased from prior to the drawdown went up in '67 and then this catchable size game fish tapered off. At the same time, you will notice here in the total pounds of game fish. This is game fish which remained relatively high. The total pounds of non-game fish dropped. This is a favorable ratio of game fish to non-game fish which was illustrated in this early period of the drawdown. It has also tapered off here. Now, we go back here to pick up the latter years, in



1974 we went from 77 lbs. total game, total fish, to an increase of 101 lbs., of 201 lbs., in 1974. Now, the catchable size game fish went down; the non-game fish went up. This is unfavorable at best, so I want to point this out to you.

The bass, incidentally, dropped as is shown on this chart from 13 lbs. to about 3½ lbs. in 1974.

One other thing I want to point out is that a large part of this non-game fish population is made up of small brim. There are over a thousand of under-sized brim per acre on Lake Bistineau. This is a great increase over the year before and the years past.

We also have an increase in shad, so we think that this is heading for a drawdown recommendation we recognize here. If we can pull these small fish out of the grass into the deeper water, the predators can have a better crack at them. We believe the fish population, the game fish population, will improve with the drawdown.

That is all I want to show you on this chart. We'll take these down right quick here and give you the vegetative survey results we ran recently on this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just let me ask one question. When you said the predators, are you talking about the bass and large

fish that can feed on the small brim.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Yes, sir. Of course, there are predators in non-game fish, such as, gar, etc.

I want to show you the results of the vegetative surveys on the map showing where the greatest depths of vegetation was. . . . (not audible) 2 ft. square knife blade that we catch all the vegetation. This thing cuts a square column down through the water. We chop this off and weigh it.

These are the stations where these transects were taken. This is in 1972. The red indicates the severe infestation and the blue indicates the light. Now notice from this point over here there were indications of lesser vegetation in 1973. We had high water and this got rid of the milform in deeper areas of the lake. Now, it has been stabilized for two years.

The red still represents the severe infestation, the blue marks the light, so we are having a greater degree of heavy infestation in the lake. This is reflected as you can see on this chart.

We try to keep the numbers as simple as possible but the red represents 72, the blue 73, and the brown 74. This is pounds per acre. We take this material and as these samples are taken we take as much water out as possible in a short period of time and weigh the vegetation and in that way we get

rid of the fish and the mud, the roots, etc. Now, we notice in '73 -- this is the total situation on the lake that there was an actual decrease in '73 over '72. This will triple in our opinion with the high water, the extra turbidity and what have you. We come back with a total here now in 1974 which shows almost a double increase in the 1974 level of infestation and about a third increase over '72. Another increase in 1974 over both. In deeper waters we have less vegetation in the lake in the deeper areas here.

We feel that this is getting to be an almost normal situation and so from the aquatic weed standpoint, we would further recommend a drawdown to control this vegetation.

That is our recommendation, gentlemen, that the lake be drawn down beginning September 3rd which is the day after Labor Day and the gates closed on January 15th.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I want to make a statement and bring your thinking up to date for the benefit of the public. Last year we, I was the one that made the motion to drop the consideration of a drawdown. There were two reasons for that. One, of course, was the weather conditions. The other was that we had time wise-- We argued this thing back and forth and back and forth until we had passed the time in which it would really do any good. At that time I made the statement, you can go back

to the records, that we would reconsider it this year.

I think that all the conditions are different now. The weather conditions are good and, of course, we ought to set down a drawdown that would be beneficial. I would be in favor of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Harmon Drew, would you like to talk now.

REPRESENTATIVE HARMON DREW: Yes, I do.

Mr. Chairman, gentlemen of the Commission, I don't come here professing to have any expertise. I think here is the expertise we need on the Board behind us. I'm wearing two hats today both as State Representative and as President of the Webster Parish Wildlife and Sportsmen Club. The Sportsmen's Club has unanimously voted and urged that you do go back to the drawdown.

I think the red that you see here shows what a creeping paralysis has set in on Lake Bistineau. It can be a great lake. It's a little unusual in our area because it is very similar with Black Lake having an excessive amount of cypress which you don't find on Claiborne and so many other lakes in North Louisiana. We have appropriated money in 1973 to do stump work which we have done and are able to do but there is a lot of improvement that can be done and this drawdown is going to be a

definite improvement to the lake. As I said, I don't think that I can add anything to what Mr. Smith has said. I am just urging that you follow the expertise that the department has. The only thing that I would like to suggest is that maybe it's too late this year.

I hate to talk second hand but I understand that Dr. Santa's evaluation of Black Lake was a very carefully, carefully made study and proved a tremendous decrease in vegetation by reason partially, if not a major part, because the drawdown was started earlier than Labor Day. I believe, if I am correct, that the drawdown was started on July 20th, two years, and showed a considerable decrease in vegetation. I hope that the Commission will consider next year an earlier drawdown.

I'm afraid we are losing six weeks of our best weather for the benefit of the drawdown. I don't know what the drawdown would cause. I know that most of the lakes that do have drawdowns, I think use Labor Day and possibly that's for the Labor Day weekend--the sportsmen on the thing. If we could do without maybe a little bit of the sportsmen playing on Labor Day for a couple of weeks for an earlier drawdown for a couple of years, I think that we would have a much better lake in the long run.

I hope you will go with the department's recommendations.  
Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Drew. I want to say this. We will certainly ask Kenneth Smith to consider your request for an earlier drawdown in the future years.

Kenneth, would you come back because someone may want to talk with you.

Do any of the Commission Members have a question to ask Kenneth Smith?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Are you going to cut those stumps you were talking about two years ago if we hold a drawdown?

MR. KENNETH SMITH: I suspect, Jimmie, that it would be difficult to dry the lake bed sufficiently to draw down at this time. We may have to start the drawdown earlier to get some of the stumps. Maybe some of the areas would be dry. It's difficult to dry a lake bed after it's set there and soaked a long time to get heavy equipment out there. Probably, what we would have to do in lieu of that would take some type of barge arrangement. We have looked into that and tried to get something going on it but since we didn't get a program going this year, we didn't carry it any further. Probably, that would have to be the way we would do it. It would certainly help the lake if this is done.

THE CHAIRMAN: Kenneth, are you saying this. Those that you can get to, the condition as it is now, will be tended to,

and those stumps you can't get to will be certainly taken care of if we have an earlier drawdown.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Well, sir, we had intended to-- we want to do some stump clearing there and we had not at this time-- We have some boat road marking in there but we don't have any specific money at this time for clearing in the area.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Kenneth, when will you start the drawdown?

MR. KENNETH SMITH: September 3rd. This will be the day after Labor Day.

THE CHAIRMAN: I was thinking this, Kenneth. Have you thought about using an air boat and taking men out with chain saws to cut these down cause they can travel on just wet grass, you know.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: It may be feasible to do that, Mr. Luttrell. We will certainly look into all possibilities because if any lake is this old it certainly has stumps that come up right on top of the water, of course. They don't run under water. Any way that we could possibly reduce those we would certainly do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm not trying to put you on the spot but we can't always decide what old grandpa weather is going

to do and you take next year, for instance, we may have high water and may not be able to get in there at all. If we have a chance this year, get as much done as possible.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: (not audible)

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Berry, the late drawdown is done you know, is recommended in difference to the people who use the lake. Actually, an earlier drawdown would be more beneficial as far as the drying of the lake body is concerned. This has been the usual recommendation because it has fairly heavy use during this time as schools have started by this time and you have gotten a lot of your major water use period over by that time. This is the main reason we had done it.

REPRESENTATIVE HARMON DREW: It's a compromise.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Yes, sir, it is. It's a compromise. It should really come down earlier to get better results. We think this will be effective. It could be better. This is why this date is recommended. I might say that--

MR. DOYLE BERRY: You don't have any objections to lowering it a little bit earlier.

MR. DON WILLE: I would like to say this. I think Kenneth Smith really did his homework on this. He presented a very good report.

I think that an earlier lowering might, the only way it



would cause any difficulty, Doyle, is that a lot of people have their boats down there and would have to get them out, and, you know, the people that have their camps, we need to give them a little advance notice. You can't just go down there and open the locks and tell them to get their boats out the best way they can because they will find them on dry land. This is what would happen.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: This will give them about a two-week notice and probably--

MR. DON WILLE: Next year, if we have enough notice on the thing, we propose it earlier and if it works out we can show that this actually improved the situation, then, I think, an earlier drawdown might be effective at that time. I think right now though we do have to give the people enough notice that have boats on the lake. Some people have them at their own private camps and they need at least a week to get out there and get them.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Kenneth, is there any kind of way . . .  
(not audible)

MR. KENNETH SMITH: It wouldn't be worth the extra investment, Mr. Berry. You could probably get some but the drying is about as effective because the stuff begins to dry and you don't get transpiration down to the roots when the plants begin to

wither, you see. It doesn't stay, you know, stay a plant very long. It begins to dry immediately and you don't get much effect by spraying this particular plant. It's probably not worth the extra cost for what you would gain.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: When are you going to open the gates?

MR. KENNETH SMITH: We are proposing September 3rd and close them on January 15th. We hope to get a little cold weather in January.

We recommend that it be drawn down at the rate of 4 inches a day and this would be three days to go one foot. We are recommending that this would go down about 8 ft. so if it was straight down without any rain, it would be  $8 \times 3 = 24$  days before it got down to the 8 ft. level.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: I want to mention here, the red area is 5 ft. to 10 ft. and would be a little bit less than this area would be exposed at an 8 ft. drawdown.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Staneck.

MR. DICK STANECK: I'm Dick Staneck, Executive Director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. I believe that the Board Commission already does know the position of the Federation on this matter since we did voice our opinions at the November meeting, 1973 meeting, at that time but I would just like to reiterate at this time that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation is fully in

support of this drawdown.. We have passed a unanimous resolution back at our Fall 1973 meeting. We also reaffirmed this position at our 1974 convention in Shreveport, Louisiana.

I think the biological data, the facts, here speak for themselves, and we would urge the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to go along with Mr. Smith's recommendation.

Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: I would like to caution you about one thing that I have kind of analyzed here. Maybe I am wrong and maybe I am not, but, for the future, if you close the gates on January 15th and now I'm just taking a two-month period to fill that water back up, fill that lake back up with water, that would be March 15th, if Mr. Drew is speaking of the accelerated drawdown. What date did you give? OK.

Well, that would give you four months of full lake of water and I would caution you that next year when you think about this to not let the cure be worse than the cause. We could just run a lake and not let a lake do anything.

You see what I am trying to tell you? Realizing that you probably would get more fish and more grass to die if you drew

it down earlier. Of course, if you drew it down completely, left it the whole year, would be even better still or two years, but you have got to have a point somewhere. You have got to give the man that uses the lake something. If you cut it four months, I'm just saying this hypothetically, well, I don't see how you could really get a happy medium where, like I say, the cure would be worse than the cause.

Anyhow, I would like to make the motion that we draw the lake down as recommended by Kenneth Smith for this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there is no other discussion, I will ask for a second.

MR. DON WILLE: Second.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Do you want to make that motion?

MR. DON WILLE: Yes, I'll make it.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: All right. You make the motion and I'll second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Thompson that we follow the recommendations of our biologists for the drawdown of Lake Bistineau.

Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Motion is carried.

(The full text of the resolution  
is here made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, recent surveys on the fish population in Lake Bistineau have indicated a decrease in the pounds of game fish and an increase in the pounds of non-game fish, and

WHEREAS, aquatic vegetation surveys indicate a sharp increase in aquatic weed infestation over last year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does approve a drawdown for Lake Bistineau beginning September 3, 1974, drawing down at the rate of 4 inches per day to a total of 8 feet below pool stage and closing the gates on January 15, 1975. Both fish and the aquatic weed infestation would be improved by this plan.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we are down to something that we are all tremendously interested in.

I would like to take this course in this thing. I would like to call on our two biologists to explain the two different recommendations or one biologist explain both, either way, but I would like to hear from the biologists first to hear their recommendations.

Then, we will ask for any recommendations that the Board might have and after we hear all the recommendations, we have a group here who would like to speak and we have a petition. We would like to call on them after we have had the recommendations from the biologists and the Board.

Mr. Yancey may have some remarks to make before them. Do you, Mr. Yancey? Good. I'll call on him first. Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, this next item on the agenda, I believe, is non-controversial. It's unlike the Lake Bistineau issue and, of course, has to do with the setting of the dates for the 1974-75 waterfowl hunting seasons. Before we get into that, I might make a few preliminary comments.

Based on the number of telephone calls we have been getting in the office in the past few days, there is a lot of confusion about whether or not Louisiana is going to be managed according to the Mississippi or Central Flyway hunting regulations

this year.

In order to clarify that, I would like to say that we are going to be managed by the Mississippi Flyway hunting regulations this year. There has been some news stories out that indicated that possibly Louisiana would be managed according to Central Flyway hunting regulations this year but that, of course, is not true.

Back in May, the Commission asked along with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club that a public hearing be conducted here in Louisiana by the Department of the Interior with regard to the question about Louisiana going into the Central Flyway and about two weeks ago we had a telegram from Nat Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, that stated that they would not hold a public hearing regarding this matter in Louisiana.

As an alternative to that, they suggested that we meet with them in Washington to discuss this matter, so last Monday, four of us from the Commission, Mr. Angelle, Mr. Jerry Jones, Mr. Larry Soileau and myself met with Nat Reed and Lynn Greenwalt, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other members of the staff in Washington for the purpose of discussing Louisiana's transfer to the Central Flyway.

This was discussed over a period of about two hours and

finally Mr. Reed instructed the staff of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop criteria for making flyway boundary adjustments early in 1975 and then to go ahead and make those flyway boundary changes by June 15, 1975.

It was generally agreed that Louisiana had a good case for transfer to the Central Flyway and we are fairly optimistic that this change will be made by June 15, 1975.

We did not necessarily accept this proposal that they offered. We asked that they put it in writing, give us a letter on it and then we would discuss it with the entire Commission, the duck hunters in this State and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and then come back to them with our response.

They indicated to us that they would give us a letter on this some time this week was the timetable that they told us we would get the letter--about a week from the meeting last week, and then on Tuesday morning, the National Waterfowl Advisory Committee met in Washington and then Mr. Reed's opening comments he said that this was the procedure that they were going to follow in making flyway boundary changes which resulted from Louisiana's efforts to get over into the Central Flyway.

We think that quite a lot of progress was made but we have found in the past that it doesn't pay to be real optimistic on these things until something concrete really develops but



from what we heard verbally up there we are optimistic that perhaps Louisiana would be in a position to go into the Central Flyway early next year but we received the information on this year's waterfowl hunting regulations from the Interior Department on Friday by telephone and again on yesterday.

We still don't have it in writing but we have it over the telephone about what the framework is and the shooting hours, the point system and the options on the dates that we have to select from this year and the framework for Louisiana's duck season this year would be that the Commission can set a prescribed number of days between the dates of October 1st and January 20th. The framework on geese will run on to February 14th.

We have the shooting hours this year which will be thirty minutes before sunrise until sunset.

Last year, if you will recall, it was sunrise to sunset. This is a major change as we see it and, certainly, a desirable one. It's one that everybody has worked on for the past twelve months to get them to go back to thirty minutes before sunrise and they did this.

Additionally, we have two point system options and one conventional bag limit option.

The conventional bag limit option for the hunting of

ducks would be for a period of 40 days of duck hunting with a general daily bag limit of 4 daily but not more than 2 could be mallards or 2 could be black ducks or 2 could be wood ducks.

Under the point system the State has the option of selecting a 45 day season or a 50 day season with the point system.

Under the 45 day season, the Commission can start it on a Saturday, a Wednesday, or whatever, but if the State selects the 50 day season and, certainly, a lot of hunters want as many days as they can get, the season would have to be started at Wednesday at noon.

Now, this is the first time in history that we have ever been told that you have got to start on a certain day of the week in order to get a certain number of days of hunting but this is one of the strings attached to having the 50 day season.

If you set a 50 day season, it's got to start on Wednesday at noon. If you split it, then you have two Wednesdays at noon openings during the season.

The point values under these point systems are the same as last year except the pintail this year will be a 15 point bird instead of a 25 point bird and the mallard,

drake and the mottled duck will be 35 point birds instead of 25 point birds. The mallard hen will remain at 90 points. The canvasback and redhead will be 100 point birds and there are certain areas in Louisiana where the taking of these two species will be prohibited. These areas are Caddo Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. Mary Parish and a portion of Ward I, formerly designated as Ward 6 of St. Martin Parish and Catahoula Lake. The taking of canvasbacks and redheads would be prohibited in those particular areas.

These are the options that we have before us to date. As I mentioned earlier, the Commission can select one of these three options. I can't for the life of me understand why they would throw in this 40 day season with a conventional bag limit of 4 of which only 2 can be mallards because under either one of the two point season options you can take 3 mallards if you shoot drakes and you have more days of hunting. So, this to our way of thinking fairly well rules out this 40 day season which would be fewer days and fewer mallards than you would have under the point system options, and, furthermore, the hunters in Louisiana have really taken to this point system. They like it and they want to continue it. Under both of the point system options, you can take 7 of these 15 point birds or you can take 6 of the 15 point birds and one

more duck of a higher point value which would provide for a total bag limit of 7 if you shoot selectively out in the marsh.

Basically, the regulations on geese will be the same as last year. You are allowed 70 days of hunting between the period of October 1 and February 14th and the bag limits will be the same as last year. That would be 5 blues or snows or you can take 2 white-fronted geese or speckled bellies within that bag limit of 5. The season on Canada geese will remain closed in the State of Louisiana.

At this point, perhaps we could get Mr. Bateman or Mr. Soileau to present the recommendations of the biologists and then hear comments from those in attendance and take the action.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, I have a letter I want to read, if you don't mind. This letter is from Marc Dupuy who couldn't be here and he wrote the letter before he knew that we had possible 50 days. I just thought that some of the expressions he had here will go along with what Dick has said. This is never controversial unless, of course, you set a date that doesn't please some individual person and then it becomes controversial.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: I would like to add one more

comment pertaining to their recommendations.

We have waterfowl migration and distribution information for Louisiana that dates back to around 1951 and we, also, have real good records on waterfowl kill in the State by the hunters that date back 10 or 15 years and according to time table frames during the regular duck seasons that we have had. Mr. Bateman and Mr. Soileau have been analyzing this information for the past few days since we found out how many days we were getting and so forth.

Their recommendations are based on what they feel would provide the most hunting opportunity for the most hunters in the state realizing that it is going to be totally impossible to satisfy everybody with this 45 or 50 day season because we all know that there are a lot of people in Louisiana that get their best hunting early and there are others that want late hunting. It is difficult with the few days of duck hunting that we have to satisfy all. You can't do it, so they have come up with their recommendations based on what they feel would provide the most hunting opportunity for the most people based on the information we have on hand that has been gathered over the past twenty years or so. Thank you.

MR. H. CLAY LUTTRELL: I'll finish the letter.

"I regret that I will not be with you on Tuesday, the 13th, for your cussing and discussing the season concerning setting up duck seasons.

"On the assumption that we will have 45 days, I would like to suggest two alternatives which I will support.

"Alternative A. November 9th through December 1st--23 days. December 14 through January 4--22 days.

"Alternative B. November 16 to December 8th--24 days. December 21 to January 10--21 days.

Both are 45 days."

Now, this letter was written before he knew about the 50 days but this is the part that I wanted you to hear.

"Anything less than 45 days is justification for succession from the Union and failing that is justification for fixing a 70 day season and hunt when we please."

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: I like that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. "I will try calling you on Thursday from northern Arkansas to see how badly the late straight people have fared." (quoted from Mr. Dupuy's letter)

MR. JERRY JONES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say something.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

MR. JERRY JONES: It is general in nature and it is addressed to what Dick just said.

I had the misfortune of being at that meeting in Washington. I say misfortune because every time I go to a meeting with the Department of the Interior, we wind up coming home and we find something happens that never was talked about.

Those people were supposedly talking to us in good faith with open arms on the morning that they had the migratory waterfowl advisory meeting that was published.

The recommendations from the Mississippi Flyway Council from all of the flyway councils in the country, their own biologists got up and distributed in writing their recommendations which were fairly restrictive. The opportunity was given to everyone in the room and a great many of them spoke about what they thought the duck framework should be and there was not one person in that whole room that said a word about this Wednesday noon business. Not even the most conservative people, the Audubon Society. They didn't say a thing about it.

We are going back now some ten years when we used to have this noon opening. I guess their idea is that we

are going to hope to run all the ducks out of the marsh by starting at 12:00 noon and to me this is a sport and we are to provide a season that gives the hunters the opportunity to kill ducks. If the federal people honestly feel that we should only have 45 days, why come and offer us the shenanagins of this 50 day business and, say, start in the middle of the day.

I think this Commission again ought to protest to the Department of the Interior about having given us this option--not giving anybody the opportunity to speak on it. No one had any notice that they were proposing that at all. This was the whole idea. They published all this in the Federal Register and said you come to Washington and we will give you the opportunity to say your peace about it.

We would have had a lot to say because I think the duck hunters in the State would want us to say a lot about this Wednesday noon opening but the federal people did it. They apparently decided in some back room and didn't give the duck hunters of this state or any state, the opportunity to say anything about it.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we register a protest with the Department of the Interior about the



manner in which they arrived at this decision and not giving the duck hunter the opportunity to comment about it.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to second that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I heartily agree with that and if there is no discussion, those in favor of the recommendation, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

Opposed, no.

(No response)

The ayes have it.

Thank you, Jerry.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have based on what you have heard from Mr. Yancey, what you see on the board up here, we have two recommendations from the Game Division to make with regard to the Louisiana duck season this year.

If the Board should decide to open a duck season on a weekend and take a split season, we would recommend Saturday, November 9th through Saturday, November 30th, for 22 days.

The second segment of the season would open on Saturday, December 14th and run through January 5th, which

is a Sunday, for 23 days.

That would be a total of 45 days.

Now, if the Board should decide to run a 50 day season, take the additional 5 days and open on noon, Wednesday, we would recommend the following dates:

November 6th, which is a Wednesday noon, through Saturday, November 30th, for  $24\frac{1}{2}$  days, to be technical.

The second segment would run Wednesday noon, December 18th through Saturday, January 11th, for  $24\frac{1}{2}$  days. In other words, an even split.

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Can you get that morning hunt-- catch that back?

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: I wish we could.

THE CHAIRMAN: Extend one day to make up for the half days.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: No. Mr. Lapeyre, this is your 50 day season. In other words, they call it a 50 day season but you are actually getting  $24\frac{1}{2}$  days because you have to start at noon. They specify in the framework that you have to begin your season at Wednesday noon local time.

There is one point which Mr. Yancey pointed out, the point system was very popular with duck hunters in Louisiana this year and I have for just a point of interest

here-- I figured up last year. I will move away from the mike for just a moment.

With the four categories listed right here, last year what we called the high point birds in Louisiana, I think this was actually 25 point birds made up about 24% of the total birds harvested and made up these three categories here and 76% of the birds were made up of low point categories and move back 4 or 5 years and look at your average total hunt.

These birds here made up about 60% of the kill or, I mean, these birds made up about 40% of the kill and the low point birds made up about 60% of the total so the point system last year was effective.

We strongly recommend the point system as the best way to go for this year.

Mr. Chairman, that's it. Those are the recommendations.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Do we have a recommendation? I believe I stated that we would take the biologists first and give anyone on the Commission a chance to make a recommendation if we have anyone who cares to.

All right. I'll call on Mr. Hebert.

MR. WHITNEY HEBERT: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, and I'll say my good friends, the duck hunters, I would like to put in one protest right quick on this.

I see a ring-neck, that's nothing but a black jack, for 35 points. That's about the biggest disgrace that Louisiana ever had--classing a black jack for 35 points.

THE CHAIRMAN: I've never seen a ring-neck.

MR. WHITNEY HEBERT: I have a resolution that I want to read here.

My name is Whitney Hebert, I'm sorry. I'm from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and this is the recommendation of the duck hunters in southwest Louisiana.

I want to make it clear that every person that signed this petition was asked specifically, "Do you hunt ducks, and if you don't, don't sign it." This is strictly made by duck hunters. I'll read the petition if you don't mind.

"To make known to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission the desires of the undersigned Louisiana residents migratory waterfowl hunters concerning hunting season dates.

"WHEREAS, generally speaking our ducks are pairing off on or after January 1st, therefore, it should not be

hunted,

"WHEREAS, our duck population should not be molested on or after January 1st to allow ample time to prepare for their return to the hatching grounds in Canada, or wherever they go,

"WHEREAS, our goose population is sufficient for hunting purposes on or about November 2nd, and

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the undersigned that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission consider this as a petition for the yearly hunting seasons for ducks and geese with the following guidelines."

Now this was drawn up before we had this option of 50 days, if you want to call this an option.

"Duck season opening on or about November 15th and closing no later than January 1st, with no split.

"Goose season opening on or about November 2nd with no split closing according to the number of days allotted."

You might wonder why we specifically recommend closing January 1st. These ducks are mating and paring up and I think like us they would not like to be disturbed when

they are mating.

I firmly believe that we should close this season no later than January 1st. We are all dedicated sportsmen, I might add. We need to take into consideration that these ducks have to go back to Canada, lay their eggs, and hatch little ducks to come back in here. If we keep shooting these ducks when they are ready to pair up and the mating season then we are liable to lose our own duck hunting.

Since this 50 days has come up, I have talked with Butch Crain yesterday, talked with Mr. Falk and I have called quite a few of the sportsmen and here's what the suggestion was made on a straight season on 50 days, and for God's sake, I hope we take that 50 days just to fool the federal government. If we refuse it, we'll never get it again. I can rest assure you.

The recommendation was made yesterday by the sportsmen to open November 13th and to close January 1st.

Now, I would like to put this also for your thought and consideration. We have a lot of high school boys and we have a lot of college kids and this gives them the two complete holidays for them to hunt and we certainly have to consider our youth in the state. So, without talking a half a day

because I'm not a good speaker and I know it, I'm going to leave this one thought with you. Please, whatever you do today, don't turn down that 50 day duck season. If we turn it down, we can kiss it good-bye forever. I'm still going to stand by and ask for a straight season from November 15th through January 1st.

I thank the Members of the Commission for giving me this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: I believe it was recorded as the 13th. November 13th.

MR. WHITNEY HEBERT: The 13th; I'm sorry. November 13th through January 1st.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. WHITNEY HEBERT: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone else from the floor? OK.

MR. JERRY DEMAREY: I'm Jerry Demarey with the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club and we would go with the same recommendations that we had in Alexandria and that was opening with the 45 day split. Now that we have the 50 day opportunity, well, like I say, I feel that the Club would go for this but I can't speak for them. If we went with the 45 day split, working comparatively close with this recommendation, we would like to have it on November 9th

through December 1st, 23 days, and reopening again on December 14th to run through January 4th.

The goose season we would like to see open and close the first season the same as the duck season and start again on December 14th and run itself to entirety.

This is the wishes of the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club. November 9th through December 1, which will run 23 days, and reopen again on December 14th through January 4th.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: That's only 45 days.

MR. JERRY DEMAREY: Yes, sir.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: If you were to consider the 50 days, what would be your recommendation because you could not start on the 9th. You could either start on the 6th or the 13th.

MR. JERRY DEMAREY: The Wednesday preceding the 9th, that would be the 6th, and end the 11th of December, if we were to go with the 50 days, but, as I said before, I can't speak for the club saying that we want the 50. We haven't voted on that but I feel that they would.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, if you use December 1st, you will end on the 10th not the 11th for 50 days.

MR. JERRY DEMAREY: OK. Thank you a lot.



THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else?

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Well, of course, the federal government allows you to run your season to January 20th and if they consider that to be a biological problem they wouldn't let you run that late, so we don't--

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I don't care what they consider. I don't trust their judgement a lot. (laughter)

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: I trust it implicitly on everything! (laughter)

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I would like to know for sure what your thought is on it--what our biologists think about it--the closing of the duck season.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Well, the ducks do begin to pair up a little bit in early January, but we don't consider that to be a problem insofar as the setting of the dates are concerned from a biological standpoint.

FROM THE FLOOR: (not audible)

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Well, the mottled duck starts nesting in February and so does the wood duck. The wood ducks start to nest around the 1st of February and they begin to lay eggs about that time.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Dick, what you said about

their courting and marriage?

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: That's right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else? All right, sir. State your name and who you represent.

MR. JERRY JONES: While he is coming to the microphone, I might tell you I read that list of people and I saw my friends on there so I signed it. (laughter)

MR. WALTER BARNETT: My name is Walter Barnett. I represent the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League and we would like to go along with the blue season on the Board, the fifty day season, and also go along with the recommendations of the wildlife biologists.

THE CHAIRMAN: The 50 day season.

MR. WALTER BARNETT: Right. The dates that the wildlife biologists have recommended.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Do we have someone else?

MR. DICK STANEK: I'm Dick Stanek with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Before I mention what our recommendations are, I want you to realize that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation represents sportsmen from throughout Louisiana. We represent the sportsmen of north Louisiana and we represent the sportsmen of central and south Louisiana. There is quite

a consensus of differences between these people. The Wildlife Federation determines what they will recommend at their annual convention in a democratic process so even although some of our clubs recommend other things and have different views on it, we all in the end go with what the consensus of opinion is. We already have given the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission our recommendations. I would just like to read them again. You know what they are.

We, again, this year recommend a split season and we are in favor of the point system. We had asked for a split season having the early, the first third, weighted toward an early season including the Thanksgiving holidays and the second two-thirds of the season to be as late as possible and including the Christmas holidays in it.

As far as the goose season goes, we would recommend that the biologists recommend the same season that was given last year. As far as the option goes, this is something new to us and we haven't had any time to discuss it among the Federation members but speaking personally and to several members of the Federation that are at this meeting, I also feel personally that the 50 day option is something we should take mainly because the Federation, the duck hunters of

Louisiana and the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission have for the past, many, many years have been trying to get as many days as possible. I feel that if right now the Department of the Interior offers us 50 days and we refuse it at this time, this will give the Department of the Interior ammunition at a further date to say something like, "here we go, giving you 50 days and you don't want them." So, I would recommend mainly for the same reason that the gentleman talked first that personally on my own that you accept the 50 day season. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Stanek.

Now I would like to say this in the way of clarification. I realize that you have to speak for the entire state and at the same time, we, as a Commission, have to think of the entire state. Last year, I fought for the first part of the season, one third of the days, and the second part for two-thirds. Now to be perfectly fair, I'm going to have to favor this year giving the first part of the season the larger part or at least half and if we have a split, the second part of the season, the smaller part, or the one third, so that we will try to-- So we can't do it all in one year-- give each segment of the state an advantage.

Instead of going back again with one third, the first part, and the two thirds the second part, I would favor going the other way this time and try to let our people know we are doing the best we can to give the greatest hunter opportunity to the most people.

FROM THE FLOOR: (not audible)

THE CHAIRMAN: That was just one man's opinion. Thank you. Anyone else? Yes, sir.

MR. BRICE BERNARD: I'm Brice Bernard from Houma. I thought I would give you another 50 day split. Several dyed-in-the-wool duck hunters sat down and worked up a 45 day split and, also, a 50 day split not knowing which would be considered here today.

The 45 day split that we have jotted down was exactly the same as the one offered by the biologists--November 9th through the 30th, December 14th through January 5th.

The 50 day split that was jotted down was noon, November 6th through November 30th, noon December 11th ending January 4th.

Both the seasons ended on Saturday, the first half would not be of any particular consequence because of the 28th. I think most people would want to be able to hunt Thanksgiving and the Friday and the Saturday. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bernard. Is there anyone else?

Mr. Bateman.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: I neglected to point out that we also had some recommendations on the goose seasons. That was to run concurrent with the duck season recommendations we had and then to add the remaining number of days onto the end of January.

Now on the 45 day season, that would end on January 29th and on the 50 day split, that would end on January 31st.

I might also point out at this time that maybe a little more clarification might be needed or desired on understanding exactly what Louisiana's point system is designed to do with these low point birds. If you look at that "all other duck" category over there, the blue 15 point birds, as I pointed out a minute ago, those birds are going to make up about 75% of the total birds that we are going to harvest this year in Louisiana under the point system.

It's probably also proper to point out that a large portion of those birds are going to come into the state starting right now and extending on through about the first two weeks in November. It is extremely important to

base the information on fact that your mallards are in a high point category that we take advantage of these early birds coming through the state.

I can't impress enough upon you gentlemen the importance of recognizing this fact and I've heard Mr. Yancey say this many, many times in the past and he's right. It's very, very difficult when we are on an inventory on the ducks in Louisiana to show that these birds do leave the state. Physically it's difficult to demonstrate that by writing down a figure how many went where and how many stayed here but this fact does happen each year and it's extremely important that early November hunting does take place.

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Do you feel that the two dates recommended are adequate to take care of that?

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Yes. Biologically the two seasons-- I don't see the difference. You are talking about 2½ days on each part of the season.

I see what you are saying. In other words, the important thing is in my opinion, looking at the inventory data and based on what I think I know about what happens to ducks along the coast of Louisiana and the important early flight in November when all these birds blast into the state around the first of November, the further you move back, actually, I think you are losing ground if you move forward

from the 9th.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: What about going the other way?

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: On which season?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Back into October.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Back to the 6th?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: No, go back into Wednesday of October.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Unfortunately, your key dates are between November 2nd and about November 7th and you are going to run about an 8 out of 10 chance that you are going to miss-- In other words, if you look at the four figures in the column, mallards in October, it shows just a pitiful few--something like 20,000 mallards in the whole state in October and then if you look at November, it jumps up to way over a quarter of a million. All that happens right generally in this first week of November. That is what happens. Not only that, but you get an additional number of gadwall and an additional number of widgeon and pintail and everything else. That is when it really starts to happen in that week. If you move it back into October, I think you have a real serious chance of getting in ahead of it. The ideal, of course, is to have your season open when that



flight is coming into the state.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: OK. The 2nd is when they start and if you start on the 6th, you lose a day if you don't start it on Wednesday because they will be gone by the 9th.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: No, no, your birds are generally gone on the 20th of November.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: OK, but you didn't say that.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: But, you didn't ask me either.

(laughter)

This is generally what we have said in the past. The week of November 2nd through the 7th is when the major part of the birds-- You see, if you wait until the 13th you only have this 6 days in our opinion and a large number of your transient birds that come in during this week are going to be gone. That's what I mean.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: You are not following me. Say what you said about those ducks on the 6th and the 7th. That's your peak population. That's when the biggest flight comes.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: That is when the major flight comes.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: The 6th and 7th?

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Well, the first week in November, the 2nd through the 7th. Somewhere in there. I do say in all fairness that if you do move back into October, you would be taking a real gamble.

MR. JERRY JONES: Mr. Chairman, may I ask Butch a question and answer it for him.

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

MR. JERRY JONES: I'm still against protesting but I want you to confirm what I say. Last year they gave us-- the mottled duck was 25 points. This year they changed it to 35 and we can kill only 3. Now, at the Washington meeting the Feds were specifically asked what was the basis for moving it to 35. We asked if they had any population figures at all. They said "no." As a practical matter, I think Mr. Yancey informed them that the only people in the United States that count mottled ducks is Louisiana because we have them all. We didn't give them any figures but for some ungodly reason they changed it from 25 to 35 and beat us out of one mottled duck, our own native duck that we take care of all the year round. Do you know of any reason why it was changed from 25 to 35?

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Looks like they are playing eeny, meeny, minnie, moe. (laughter)

MR. JERRY JONES: No, but I just want to educate everybody else like those Feds are educating me. This has nothing to do with what their biologists or anybody's biologist said. This is the way they want to do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: They have no way to judge a crop either, Jerry, because they don't come to Louisiana to make a survey.

MR. JERRY JONES: On the suggestion of Mr. Bosch, I move we protest that to the Department of the Interior.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: I'll second that and by a strong letter.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no objections, the motion is carried.

I want to say one thing. We keep harping on weekends. Now, we have a large segment of people who hunt in the middle of the week. We have professional people, business people, retired people and many, many of our laboring people who have to work on weekends, so the 6th, 7th and 8th are not lost in hunter opportunity.

I just wanted you to not get too far overboard in your thinking that weekends were all important because no one hunted during the week. I personally let the weekends go and I hunt during the week. I'm a retiree.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: That's all I had to make a comment on. Maybe there would be somebody else--

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: I would like to ask you a question on what you have recommended for geese. I have been approached by a number of goose hunters who indicated that they would prefer an earlier opening of the goose season prior to the duck season and let the additional days of the season run before rather than after. Is there any benefit to that?

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Well, certainly, Mr. Lapeyre. In past years gone by, an earlier goose season, in fact, I think we have opened as early as November 2nd and on occasion had the goose season open prior to the duck season.

I know all you gentlemen are aware of our present problems with the blue and snow goose migration and now what happens is that we have possibly about one-third to one-half of our geese in the state by mid or late November. What we have tried to do is try to move the thing back and let the goose season run concurrent with the duck season. We think this is important because so many people in Louisiana when they are in a duck blind they are also hunting geese. When they are in a goose blind they are also hunting ducks, so we think it is imperative that the duck and goose seasons run concurrent. Based on that and based on the fact that this

snow and blue goose flight is getting into the state so much later now, the earlier season probably wouldn't provide as much recreation as trying to run this season later. Another little catch to the thing has been this goose depredation problem in southwest Louisiana. We tried to run the season late into January and even into February last year as we could to try to provide some relief for those people trying to raise a rye grass crop for cattle.

Your suggestion is well taken but because of this delay in the migration coming in, it would probably be better to have the season later.

The geese are actually in better shape if they come in and fatten up and rest and spread out for a week or two before the season opens. If you shoot those birds when they first get here I can assure you anybody from southwest Louisiana or anywhere up in north Louisiana who kill one of those geese, especially a young bird, during migration will find they are nothing but a bag of feathers. That is another point.

FROM THE FLOOR: (not audible)

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Well, that's why I have all those grey hairs on my head at 30 yrs. old.

FROM THE FLOOR: (not audible)

THE CHAIRMAN: Just might be from north Louisiana, too.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Well, of course, that is the reason we ask for the 55 days. If we had the 55 days, that would solve a lot of our problems.

MR. ERVIN DEVILLIER: My name is Ervin Devillier. I represent a hell of a big family. They hunt and I have a lot of friends. I just want to say that we would agree with the 50 days. I think that this Commission at one time recommended to the U. S. Wildlife and Fisheries a 55 day season. I read this in the newspaper. I say take the 50 days. That's my suggestion. If you have recommended 55 and they gave us 50, I think it would make us all happy if we have the 50.

On split seasons, we have observed this in the area where we hunt. As I said, I have about 14 people in my immediate family that hunt and we hunt together sometimes and we have a lot of friends that hunt with us and we hunt with a lot of friends that invite us into their blinds. I go occasionally. I couldn't do it otherwise because it would be too expensive.

Last year with the 30 day split, this just ruined our area. They just-- In the 30 days the ducks and geese came in this area where we were, that's Gueydan area down

below and along the Intracoastal Canal, they just cleaned out the entire crop of any feed that was left and the ducks, they were gone.

In other words, we didn't see a good season on the last part. I checked with a lot of people from different parts of the state. I'm very familiar with them, so I'm saying the split season, if it is going to be split, make it as short as possible because you give the ducks and geese too much time to clean out the little feed we have in the fields and they can do it in a hurry if they get concentrated.

We recommend as an independent, you might say, a goose season at least a week earlier than the duck season, if that is possible.

I think one of the finest seasons in goose hunting that we had was a few years back when this Commission permitted us to hunt about 7 or 8 days prior to the opening of the duck season. Now at that time, I know we had observed in our hunting that there were not many blues and whites but they had specks and it was just a wonderful hunt for a man to go out and sit in that blind and wait out his limit of specks of two specks and come in with them and just the finest kind of weather and the finest time of the year and it didn't hurt the duck situation at all.

When we hunt geese, we don't hunt in the duck blinds. We have a separate place to go hunt. Mr. Jones, you were talking about the U. S. Fish and Wildlife throwing you all the curves and everything else. I received a questionnaire, Mr. Jones, from a research laboratory in Philadelphia with 145 questions and this firm said that they were hired by the U. S. Wildlife and Fisheries to ask questions of an individual like me. Whey they picked on me, look, I don't know.

I know I have been hunting for 57 years or 58. It might be longer than that. I looked at this thing and the more I look at it, I just get confused so I took up a little time with your man right here. He did a very good job and we talked it over. They asked questions in there, for instance, like this: "For as long as you have been hunting, how many ducks and geese did you think you killed." Now, if you go back 60 years and figure that out! Another question they asked was "How many violators do you think you have in your area." (laughter)

This is true. He made a copy of it right here in this office. He told me right away and I don't mind telling you and he will agree with you I know because you are taking the stand I like--the same one.

They sent this out to me. This office here had



not received any word of that, not one. Did you get one, Mr. Chairman? This is unusual. I would say the first people they would contact would be you folks here and let you look at it and then say, well, this is fine, we'd like to have it, but I'll tell you right now that they asked me some questions I still have to answer. I'm about three quarters of the way. It takes about a month to answer it and then you can't. It's impossible to answer it intelligently. It's impossible.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: You ought to answer it the same way they asked you. When they asked how many ducks you killed, you ought to put 30 down there.

MR. ERVIN DEVILLIER: I'm so much with Mr. Jones on this because they just get around here and this questionnaire can make a man get hanged or something else, I don't know. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

I'll recognize this gentleman next.

MR. RICHARD TRICHE: I'm Richard Triche, private citizen from Lake Charles. I would like to strongly urge the Commission to accept the 50 days offered by the Department of the Interior. Again, as everybody said, let's take what they offer us. Let's get all we can. If we refuse part of it, next year they may think we don't need that many because we didn't take what was coming to us. Starting in the middle of

the week, this is no problem. A lot of people can hunt during the middle of the week. I would like to support the dates that Mr. Hebert presented on the straight season, the 50 day straight, opening Wednesday, November 13th through January 1st.

I would like to also offer an alternate if we so desire to go with the split, to take the 50 days with opening date of November 6th until December 7th. This would be opening on a Wednesday and closing on a Saturday. The second split opening December 18th which is a Wednesday and closing January 4th. I would like to very strongly urge that we do take the 50 on the straight season or the split season. The straight season opening date on November 13th through January 1st. The split season--November 6th through December 7th and the second half from December 18th through January 4th.

MR. JERRY JONES: I've calculated in my head.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: It doesn't come out.

MR. JERRY JONES: You have two-thirds in the first season and one-third in the second. Is that right?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: No.

MR. RICHARD TRICHE: There are 32 days in the first.

MR. JERRY JONES: That would be two-thirds.

MR. RICHARD TRICHE: OK. On the goose season, I would like to see an opening date of around November 2nd and running straight through with the number of days allotted.

Thank you.

MR. JERRY JONES: About that goose season when the duck season was closed, we had a lot of flack about that. In other words, if you are recommending a November 6th opening for the goose season and the ducks, our enforcement--

FROM THE FLOOR: Why would you want a split in the goose season? Why? What is your reason?

THE CHAIRMAN: You don't want a split?

FROM THE FLOOR: I don't want a split in the goose season. No, sir.

FROM THE FLOOR: Why? The area I'm from we have a lot of rice fields and everything. We have times we can continue to goose hunt without interfering with the duck population--

MR. CHARLES BOSCH: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, my name is Charles Bosch. I'm speaking as a private citizen who just loves to hunt ducks and loves to eat them, too.

I've listened to these arguments for 25 years now, going back to Ernest Clements when he was the Commissioner,

and Major Jim Brown was the Chief of Fish and Game. Of course, in those days we didn't have a problem because we got a 90 day season and they would open it on November 1st until the end of January and everybody was happy.

Today, we are perplexed because we only have a 45 or 50 day season. I also remember 15 years ago when the season given to us by the Federal Government was 19½ days and Richard Yancey liked to have pulled all of his hair out of his head trying to figure out where to put those 19½ days to satisfy the 100,000 people in the state.

The first thing we learned was that the season was so terrible that the 100,000 duck hunters just about quit the sport and fell down to about 50,000 or 34,000. We are now back to the pretty realistic season. Ducks Unlimited tells us we are going to have a bountiful supply of ducks and I think the Federal Government has hit you below the belt again and again.

I'm satisfied that you will make the two protests because I think it is discriminatory to have you gentlemen up here representing the state and discussing these things honestly and above board and they turn around and leave and give you things that were never considered at all. I hope you really will give some consideration to what Mr. Bateman

has recommended in this 49 day season.

Since I have learned of this dilemma, I have talked to about 50 people in the last three days and I would hate to see my phone bill. My wife never sees this phone bill but the consensus was from the people I've talked to and it was camp people and by that I mean 6 or 7 fellows who band together and have a camp or a houseboat.

The vast majority are in agreement; you have to go for the 50 days. They think the point system was ideal and it's best for the whole state to go for a split season. Nobody liked the idea of Wednesday but it seems it is just one of those things you have to take. You can't please, I don't believe, half the people no matter what you do. You are going to get some criticism which is setting the duck season for all 64 parishes and the duck hunters that live throughout the state and unfortunately everyone is not blessed like southwest Louisiana. Those boys have the ducks, they have the habitat and I think they've had the habitat because they have worked to protect the habitat and paid the high fees that has afforded the land owner the opportunity to make some money to keep it a duck habitat.

I think though that you have to give a few moments to the rest of the state. Those fellows of southwest

Louisiana, in my judgement, are going to have a pretty good year no matter what season you give them, but if you don't give some of these other areas some consideration they won't get any hunting at all.

Northeast Louisiana has a considerable gripe. Until they get water in their swamps, they will have no hunting, so northeast Louisiana certainly would want late seasons.

In southeast Louisiana the most popular duck there is the dos gris. Some of my friends in southwest Louisiana turn up their noses at dos gris but a dos gris is better than nothing and if you are a student in school and you went down there with a can of pork and beans you would much rather have a dos gris than a can of pork and beans. The dos gris comprises 20% of your kill last year in Louisiana and to the southeasterner, many of them, it's a very fine bird to shoot. It comprises a large percentage of the bag down there. In a spirit of compromise, not pleasing everyone, but giving the greatest good to the greatest number, most people felt this 24½ day season beginning on Wednesday, November 6th, and going through Saturday, November 30th, was fair and closing it down and beginning it again on Wednesday, December 18th, and running through Saturday, January 11th.

All things considered, the people I have talked to, thought it was the fairest compromise for the greatest number of hunters. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bosch.

MR. JERRY SCHALLER: My name is Jerry Schaller. I represent Ten-S Wildlife Corporation in southwest Louisiana. We lease approximately 27,000 acres for public hunting and I can't emphasize this enough because for the duck hunter the day of being able to go out and hunt in the marsh without having a lease is gone and we offered 27,000 acres that anybody, doesn't make any difference whether you are from southeast, northeast or regardless of where you are in Louisiana, you can come and hunt and have access to some of the finest duck and goose hunting.

Gentlemen, I would like to say that just about everything that has been said here it seems almost like we had sat down together on it and I would like to say that there is a lot of agreement right down to the "T." In fact, if you had read my notes here you would agree so I'm not going to go completely through them but this is the recommendation that we would like to support. We hunted 2,300 people in our duck blinds and goose blinds last year, approximately 300 of these came from southwest Louisiana.

The rest of them came, approximately 60%, from northwest, northeast and, also, southeast Louisiana. So, gentlemen, I think and we have a good cross reference of Louisiana duck hunters. The balance of them came from out of state, about 30% of our hunters do come from out of state.

For the state, for the industry, and for everything else this represents a real good tourist attraction and I think that we talk good when we can bring people from out of the state in and they can hunt and they can see our Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and you, as a Commission here, is doing a good job with our wildlife. They can go back and they can support us through their local Congressional districts that Louisiana is doing a good job down there. We feel like that is the federal government and you ought to get off their back a little bit and these men are influential people, too.

We figure that these men spend perhaps \$140.00 a day to hunt with us, whereas, we as the average man cannot spend that type of money, can we, but that's what it costs them to come in here. When they go back home they are not speaking as a poor boy hunter but they are speaking as a man who is an ardent duck hunter not from southwest Louisiana or not from Louisiana as we would like. We have talked with these gentlemen and, of course, their primary concern is that they come



down and have a good hunt--duck and geese. We have to take this into consideration to return to them, I mean, we have this obligation for the fee that they are paying to give to them the best possible hunting opportunity. We would like to, of course, satisfy them and then go right along as Mr. Bosch has said there are areas in our state that do have duck hunting other than we have down in southwest Louisiana. We recognize this but by the same token I realize that Butch had to go along with about a 50-50 proposition. He didn't have to but he felt like this would satisfy most people, but I would have to differ with him in the fact that I believe that I would go along with the others and feel like that since we do have-- Here are some figures that said that southwest and southeast Louisiana for a 10 year study there were approximately these two parishes or these two areas right here that sold approximately 575,000 or 576,000 duck stamps as opposed to 273,000 for the balance of the state. This would say, of course, that this is where most of the duck hunting is going on. We would like to recommend, to make a long story short, to satisfy all people, a season coming up, a 50 day split season, opening up November 6 at noon on Wednesday and going through Saturday, December 7th, which would be 32 days and closing down for approximately 10 or 11

days, opening December 18th, Wednesday at noon, closing on January 4th, for the balance of 18 days for a 50 day split season. For southwest Louisiana, we would like to see the thing run straight through but being fair and being reasonable with our request and going along, we feel like from our records that we can sacrifice perhaps some of our fine hunting for the benefit of those in northwest, northeast and southeast Louisiana.

For the goose season we would like to see it coincide with our duck season running, of course, November 6 through December 7, opening December 18th and running the balance on through January 24th.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. We are going to have to change the tape in a few minutes and before we take another speaker I want to make a little statement which will about take up the time we have.

I made the statement I would favor a two-thirds and one third split, that is, if we have a split. I have been hollering for a straight season for many years and I'm still hoping for a straight season but if we do find it's reasonable and just that we should have a split and since I pushed so hard last year for one third for the southern part and two-thirds for the northern part, this year to be fair, I would like to

go the other way, but I'm still going to push for a straight season. I hope some day maybe I'll get my way.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: For a straight season.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Now we have to change the reel.

(pause)

THE CHAIRMAN: I recognize Jimmie Thompson. This is my neighbor. Jimmie.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: A couple of weeks ago after returning from Canada I requested from Mr. Yancey and Mr. Bateman to furnish me with some inventories of ducks and I would just like to read this to you. This influences my voting but it's some information that I think everyone ought to have. Most of you have it. I'm going to give you the overall population when the ducks enter the State of Louisiana according to Bateman averages over the past number of years. I'm going to give you the synopsis of it.

It appears to me that the major portion of the ducks are in the state during the months of November and December, namely, during November--3,700,000 and December--4,100,000. Now, you fall off in January to 2,950,000 and you go back the other way to October and it's 1,600,000, so your major portion of your ducks are in November and December.

OK. If you want to go down to a specie situation you get a different story. You get a story like this. Your major portion of mallards is in December with 368,000 and falls off a little bit in January to 274,000. Going the other way back, it falls off to 231,000 in November, so your major mallard season is in December according to these figures. Bear in mind that I'm not going back to October; I'm giving you the three middle figures.

If you go the Gadwall, you come up definitely with November and December practically the same with 1,034,000 and 1,100,000. It decreases in January to 818,000. In October you go 220,000, so you go way down. December would be predominant on your Gadwall.

On your Widgeon, you are on a short side with November--593,000 and December--668,000. On the short side again, January--288,000, so your predominant ones are November and December. December being predominant over November.

On the Green-winged teal you get a complete reversal. You get your major portion in December--901,000 and decrease to 841,000 in January. Going the other way back to November you go to 704,000, so definitely the best two months are December and January.

There is a complete reversal again on your Blue-winged teal shows that the major portion of your ducks are in October with 433,000. Next would be November with 209,000 and decreases on down. You do have another substantial increase in February of 218,000 which is your second month. In other words, you go from your first month which is October; looks like November, December and January. Your Blue-winged teal go somewhere south then they start coming back in February for 218,000.

Shovelers. Incidentally, a lot of people don't like to hear the record on shovelers but they tell me that according to the Federal boys we had better start shooting. A lot of people are shooting and they find out they are a pretty good duck to eat, too. They have a bad reputation that is not as bad as they actually are. The shovelers show that your predominant month would be November with January being second. November had 201,000, skip to January with 197,000 and December 192,000, so for all practical purposes I would say November, December and January on your shovelers are pretty well the same. During February you have a tremendous build up of 286,000 but this would be beyond our framework.

Pintails. Here is something that is real important. Major portion is November--643,000, and December--642,000

and decreases in January to 351,000 and going to the other end of the scale to October with 289,000, so your predominant months again are November and December which are practically the same.

Mottled ducks are really, scratch it off the paper, but they again show that they are November and December.

This really shows a straight season of, say like, November 13th to January 1st. Now, this is what this shows. I just wanted to throw this out for your information.

Let me say one thing in reference to this Wednesday opening. I feel almost confident we are going to open our season on a Wednesday. This is what my original thought was and I believe Mr. Yancey and Mr. Bateman and I concur with them that if we accept this, which we probably are going to do, we are going to acquiesce to it, we are going to be saddled with it, you can just look for a Wednesday opening from now on. This is their feeling and I concur with them but I want you to be well aware of the fact that this is a projection on my part that we are probably going to have Wednesday opening from now on.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Demurry has asked to return.

MR. JERRY DEMURRY: While ago when I was up before, I had meant at that time to take the opportunity to thank the

Commission for going to bat with the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation for our plight to get switched where we rightfully belong into the Central Flyway. I feel my own personal view call us the big 3 and I think with the three of us working together we can get what we rightfully should have--our state in the Central Flyway. I just want to thank each and every one of you for your support and for watching with a close eye because I'm not going to believe anything they tell us on the work that they are doing until I see it. Thank you a lot.

MR. JERRY JONES: Mr. Chairman, it wasn't said but there are two people from the Federation and the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club, Mr. Art Darnsteadt and Mr. Frank Adams. On behalf of the Commission, I would like to express our appreciation for their procuring the services of an airplane that we used to go to Washington and come back at no expense to the state at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you suggest that we send them a letter of thank you.

MR. JERRY JONES: Yes, I sure would.

THE CHAIRMAN: If I hear no objections, so ordered.

FROM THE FLOOR: If you send the letter, might I ask that you send the letter to W. T. Burton himself. This

is the man the plane came from.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that all right with you, Jerry?

MR. JERRY JONES: That's fine.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Berry.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: In view of what I have heard here this morning and trying to work things out in my mind, both from a biological and other points of view, statements given to the Commission Members and also what has been said here this morning, I would like to make a motion that we open the duck season on November 6th until December 7th, open again on December 18th and close again on January 4th. This is a pretty good compromise.

THE CHAIRMAN: Could I ask you to withhold that? I would like to service some questions if I could, Mr. Berry, that might simplify this thing. I would like to take a vote on whether we go into this as a whole. I think Mr. Thompson said, you can correct me, but I would like to have a vote on whether we are going to accept 45 days or 50 days. When we decide which way, then we will know how to go into a recommended season. Would that be all right with you? Would you hold your motion?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: If you just vote on that, you vote on the recommended season. Do it at one time.



MR. DOYLE BERRY: I think everybody here has agreed to elect 50 days. There is no contest to that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections?

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: Mr. Clay, have you completed taking your testimony?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: For the record, I received two letters. One was delivered to me personally a minute ago from Mr. Devillier's son. Mr. Bob Devillier in Baton Rouge which centered the thoughts of Mr. Devillier and they talk about the base season with as short a split as possible, a week of goose hunting prior to the setting of the duck season, and also a letter from the St. Bernard Sportsmen's League signed by Mr. William Madrey. He recommends the continuance of the point season, favoring the split season. However, they talk about a one third of the season being in the first part and two-thirds the latest possible date, which is in conflict of anything we have heard here today but for the record I think it needs to be read here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

Now, Mr. Berry, would you state that motion again?

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Yes, sir. I move that we open

on December 18th and go to January 4th. I realize that doesn't make everybody happy. I think it's a pretty good split. I think in view of what Mr. Thompson said here a while ago, with our ducks within the state, the hunters had better get down below the border or go somewhere else.

MR. JERRY JONES: Shut up!

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a second?

MR. JERRY JONES: I would like to second that with the right to make a little statement.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

MR. JERRY JONES: Personally, I sort of agree with Jimmie when you look at the figures. The figures tell me the season ought to be November 13th to January 1st but now that's just looking at the figures. I have to look at Butch Bateman also when he tells me that you have to read into things in those figures about what happens in the first week of November. It's confirmed by the other biologists that we should be a little earlier than that. I also have to read into the figures being practical that I'm talking about a season that is good for me and not necessarily good for everybody in Louisiana. When we talk about stopping on the 1st, there are some people that would like for us to go to January 20th.

I think that is sort of impractical because they represent more or less a minority. Consequently, while I would like that November 13th to January 1st for me, personally, I think the better of the compromise is what Mr. Berry proposes especially because it eliminates this big gap in December and with the figures Mr. Thompson has shown you, that is the time we really have the ducks in Louisiana. We missed that in the last few years and this also goes along, Mr. Chairman, with your observations from the beginning that we ought to try to get nearer two-thirds in the first part and a third in the second. This comes very close to that so that is the reason I go along with it. I don't think it's the best, personally, but I think it's the best compromise and it takes into consideration everybody's view.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Jerry. Mr. Thompson.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Well, I had to go along a little bit with Jerry and realizing full well that this is a damm if you do and dammed if you don't situation because the federal government really hung us but I am positive that every member on this Commission is trying to vote his own convictions to the best of his ability.

I would have to disagree with that season for this reason. If you are going to split it, if you are not going

for a straight, then I would have to take in more consideration to the boys in the northern part of the state. January 11th would be my cut off date.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Jimmie, when you look at the number of duck hunters you have in north Louisiana versus the southern part of the state.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Well, I just want to say that you are talking about something that concerns us. There is some correspondence that came through the Game Division, Mr. Herring, Chief, from north Louisiana people a lot of it recommending a late season for just for the record I had neglected to point that out. There are approximately 20 letters here but I wanted to bring this out.

MR. JERRY JONES: Butch, that's very few compared to how many we are going to get.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: That's right. I would like to make another statement which will refute my argument for a late season but it's a fact and I'm going to have to tell it to you.

I believe I wrote to you or someone in reference to what your information was, where you got your statistics on the duck stamps and you sent me a very nice letter back and I really appreciate it. I asked Dick Yancey to also give me

some more statistics on it. It definitely shows this that the major portion of the duck stamps were sold in the southern part of the state. This is not a good argument for the other way but bearing in mind that a large number of the people from the central and northern part of the state also don't buy their stamps in the northern part of the state and they also hunt in the southern part which would really make a weighted situation.

You really have an unbalance but even bearing that in mind, I still think that those people in the northern part of the state deserve something and I am going to have to stay with my feeling that it should close the second half, if you go a split, no earlier than the 11th.

FROM THE FLOOR: (not audible)

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: I'm just going to have to go that way because I feel they should have some duck hunting. I understand the whole situation but I think my job on this Commission is to represent all the people in the State of Louisiana and not just one portion and bearing in mind that some of us are more fortunate than others. I understand that.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Mr. Thompson, isn't some of this in respect to what the weather is going to be. If we start having some cold, wet days, freak weather in October, and if

we start in December as in past years, I'm afraid this thing might very well be started early and stopped in early December.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Mr. Berry, I think I've said many, many times it doesn't make any difference when you set the season, if it's in July, it's all up to that Man upstairs. He puts the right type weather and you are going to have good or bad duck hunts. It really doesn't make any difference if you set it in July. If He puts plenty water and cold weather, they are going to be here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have a motion and a second and a question has been called for which limits debate. We will now take the vote.

Those in favor of Mr. Berry's motion of starting the duck season on November 6th to December 7th and December 18th to January 4th, say aye.

Those opposed, no. (Two are opposed)

The ayes have it. The vote, I believe, is 4 to 2.

A hand count has been requested and it has to be considered. Mr. Secretary, you will have to take the count.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

All those in favor of the duck season opening on November 6th on the first split and closing on December 7th

and reopening on December 18th and closing on January 4th, signify by raising your right hand if you are in favor of it.

(Whereupon a vote by show of hands was taken.)

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Jones, Mr. Berry and Mr. Lapeyre voting "yea."

All those in opposition of that recommended duck season, signify by raising your right hand.

(Whereupon a vote by show of hands was taken.)

MR. ANGELLE: Mr. Jimmie Thompson, Mr. Don Wille, voting "nary." Three to two, the Chairman does not have to vote.

MR. DON WILLE: I would like to make a remark on it. I voted no and I have remained pretty quiet.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a second, Mr. Wille. The motion was carried. Now, we recognize Mr. Wille.

MR. DON WILLE: The only thing I would like to say in favor of Jimmie's request is that I like the 50 day split. My proposal is very similar to Jimmie's with November 6th, the only thing I ask is that we would go through December 7th which would give the kids that are home for Thanksgiving Holidays an opportunity to hunt at Thanksgiving time and then reopening again on December 18th and closing on January 10th

which wasn't a whole lot different from the biologists' recommendation. I would have shaved one day off the end of the season but that was my original idea. I didn't get a chance to say a word. December 18th through January 10th was the proposal I wanted to get in but Mr. Berry kind of beat me to the punch so I'm going to go along. I would like to put that in a form of a motion and get shot down.

THE CHAIRMAN: We can't recognize the motion because we have already set a season.

MR. DON WILLE: All right.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry.

MR. JERRY JONES: Mr. Chairman, I move that we set the goose season concurrent with the duck season and have it run to the end of the 70 days which would be-- Where's Butch. What are your feelings about running it concurrent with the duck season and continue it on?

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: I would recommend that.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I'll second that.

MR. JERRY JONES: OK. It will be November 6th to December 7th and December 18th until January 24th.

I have a question. Does the goose season have to open at noon?

THE CHAIRMAN: No. It doesn't, does it, Dick? The



goose season doesn't have to open at noon at all.

MR. DON WILLE: Did they say anything about the goose season, Dick?

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: No. Just daylight as far as we know.

MR. JERRY JONES: Are we going to create some enforcement problem by doing that?

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Certainly.

MR. JERRY JONES: I would want my motion to open concurrently at noon with the duck season.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Go through the duck season and then 20 days after.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Wait a minute. Why do you want to do that?

MR. JERRY JONES: Well, I'm just wondering about enforcement problems, Jimmie. We have enough problems keeping people from hunting before noon and if the people are out in the marshes or the fields and an agent hears a shot, he doesn't know since they have a right to be out there shooting geese and they could be killing ducks. You've got to go out and check everyone individually.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. Now, let me see if I can state

this motion correctly.

It has been moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Berry that the goose season will open concurrent with the duck season November 6th at noon and close on December 7th. Open on December 18th at noon and close on January 24th.

Is it correctly stated, Mr. Jones?

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Let me ask you this, Jerry. Is there any chance of us setting some precedent for the federal government to tell us to start opening the goose season at noon from now on?

MR. JERRY JONES: No doubt about it. That's why I, I didn't say it here, but I'll say it now. I wasn't even for the 50 day season because I didn't want to take the bait they threw out at us. I would just as soon take the 45 days because I think from here on we are going to be hung with that Wednesday business and they are going to hang it on us. That's how they will give us the extra 5 days.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: When we start the geese at daylight, we'll let them worry about the enforcement problems.

THE CHAIRMAN: I recognize our Assistant Director.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: I believe there is one more possibility and that would be to start that goose season on the 7th of November and again on December 19th and then you

could run two days later on into January 26th which would carry you on in to the weekend.

THE CHAIRMAN: I like that, gentlemen.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: That Yancey is always figuring.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

Would somebody amend this motion?

MR. JERRY JONES: I'll withdraw my motion and restate it so we will get out of the fog.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will have to be withdrawn.

MR. JERRY JONES: I withdraw it and then I move that we open the season on November 7th until December 7th and December 19th until January 26th.

THE CHAIRMAN: The first motion is withdrawn. The second motion restated by Jerry Jones and seconded by Mr. Berry. The goose season to open on November 7th and continue to December 7th and open December 19th and close on January 26th. Those in favor, say aye. Those opposed no. (No response) Motion is carried.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Gentlemen, we have one other matter that concerns us being offered in connection with these regulations. In the Mississippi Flyway, the states may select a special scaup only season not to exceed 16 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 5, possession

limit of 10 scaup subject to the following conditions: it would fall outside of the regular duck season, it would be held only in areas that are mutually agreed on between the State and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the areas would be described and delineated in the State hunting regulations.

Now, we had this one time several years ago and the Fish and Wildlife Service will allow this season only in areas of Louisiana in which 90% or more of the birds are scaup. As it turned out, it could be held only, as I recall, on Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne and out in the Gulf of Mexico and it is not practical to hunt these birds in these areas, so, really, they are not offering us anything as we see it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, we had this come up once before and we discussed it at length and we decided that there was almost no participation whatsoever. We passed it up. I don't see any difference. I haven't heard anything that would change that unless some of the other members have. I would like for someone to move that we pass it up.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: They hunted them a little last year.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: We didn't have a scaup only season last year. They hunted them during the regular duck

season as they will do this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Does anyone see a reason for setting a special season for just those two areas? If you don't, I would suggest--

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: Don't we have until October 19th to make that decision?

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Yes.

MR. J. BURTON ANGELLE: I mean we could think about it until the end of this month.

THE CHAIRMAN: Good. That's a good suggestion. Bring it up again for us, Dick, would you please.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: We had the bonus scaup for several years. This is where 2 birds were allowed over and above the daily bag limit but that was where we had the conventional bag limit. Under the point system, you don't have this bonus option.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything else to be brought up by the Members. If not, I would like to get back home.

I rule that this meeting is adjourned.

. . . Thereupon, at 12:30 o'clock p.m.,

Tuesday, August 13, 1974, the special Board

Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries

Commission was adjourned . . . . .